Language Matters

No matter what you do in your life, whether it’s for work or for fun, you’ll be doing it with language. You’ll need to communicate effectively among your co-workers and across cultures. You’ll read, hear, write and say words that influence people’s actions and change the world. You’ll exchange ideas with people across barriers and borders. And you’ll do something that, in the billions of years of known history of the universe, only one species has done: talk.
Undergraduate programmes often cover a single subject discipline and develop and test expertise in a narrow field. In today’s world, however, knowledge of a single subject discipline is rarely enough. Employers have reiterated time and again the need for people with a host of skills across disciplines, from communicating clearly and confidently in times of crisis, to an awareness of, and ability to, navigate different cultures and languages.

Our emphasis on a holistic approach runs through all our courses. You’ll develop core competencies across the Linguistics spectrum, giving you a strong base of analytic knowledge and practical skills to draw on personally and professionally at Warwick and beyond. You’ll then build on that core as you focus on specific aspects of language and culture in your chosen course, so that you become expert in the disciplinary knowledge and practices that most interest you.

We strongly encourage all students to take up the option of an intercalated year between your second and final year, giving you the chance to study or work abroad and gain invaluable experience of the international work environment. An intercalated year, coupled with Warwick’s position as the UK’s third most targeted university by top graduate employers, and our global reputation, will help give you an edge when it comes to taking your first steps beyond university.

As for the classroom environment, you’ll get to work in small classes taught by leading researchers in Linguistics, Language, Intercultural Communication, Psychology, and Language teaching, with at least three hours face-to-face contact time per module per week, plus plenty of opportunities for additional support outside the classroom.

You’ll benefit from seminars, usually divided into very small groups, where you can practice the application of concepts and methods that were introduced in lectures, and you’ll have opportunities to engage in small-group projects, allowing you to learn with, and from, your peers. Passive lectures are rarely the best way to learn, so our learning activities are as interactive as possible.

You’ll always be engaging with existing research, challenging ideas, and gaining multiple perspectives on the disciplines you’re studying.

To help you in your step up to university study, your modules include formative assessments which don’t count towards your final grade, allowing you to work through problems like the ones you’ll encounter in summative assessments and gain valuable feedback from your tutors. And with the support of a personal tutor throughout your course, you’ll have someone to help you progress successfully through your course and solve the challenges of university – academic or otherwise.

No matter which programme you choose, you’ll design and conduct your own research projects from the very beginning of your course, and you’ll get to tailor projects to your emerging scholarly interests. You’ll also join a group of your peers who share your interests, and help you create a university experience that you enjoy now and benefit from for the rest of your life.
BA LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION WITH INTERCALATED YEAR

Are you interested in the interconnections between language, culture, and communication? Do you want to explore the ways that people communicate across boundaries and borders? Do you want to work effectively with people in an increasingly globalised world?

Our BA Language, Culture and Communication will hone your analytical, research and communication skills across a range of authentic situations, developing your skills in areas that will transfer directly to the workplace and beyond.

The programme is designed to provide you with a thorough grounding in Language, Culture and Communication, introducing you to relevant linguistic and cultural features and enabling you to explore the interconnections between the two. You will be trained in analytical, research and communication skills and expected to apply these in a range of authentic situations. You will also be provided with the opportunity to learn a foreign language and to reflect on this, and may also choose to explore relevant topics within the broader field of social sciences. In your third year, you have the option to spend a year abroad to enhance your foreign language skills and intercultural experience. This course will enable you to develop a successful career in a global environment that demands a high level of foreign language and intercultural skills.

Current core modules include:  
Culture, Cognition and Society
Is human cognition (the way the mind works) universal? Or do culture and society affect how we see the world? How do we understand (or misunderstand) each other in a multi-cultural society?

In this module you will first learn about important aspects of cognition, such as perception, attention and memory before going on to examine the extent to which cognition is influenced by culture and society.

I like the diversity that LCC offers. I can be exposed to the pragmatic side of language use within society and analyse how real-life texts reflect the theories we learn; on the other hand, we also learn about linguistics which enables us to comprehend the scientific side of language. To sum up, you get to touch upon all aspects related to language and even how it relates to cross-disciplinary subjects like Sociology and Psychology!

Joyce Chan  
BA Language Culture and Communication
BA ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

Are you fascinated by the uniquely human capacity for language? Do you want to know how babies learn to talk and how our brains form sentences? Do you like learning about different dialects and languages? Are you interested in the ways that English has changed through its history (and is changing right now) or how it has become the global lingua franca? Do you want to study how people do things with words, and how people get people to do things with words?

In the first year on the BA you study how we acquire language and you are introduced to the complex relationship between language and society. Key topics also include how the English language is structured, how it is used in different domains, and how it is changing and diversifying globally.

In the second year you explore questions on the relationship between language and thinking, how language varies and how we can analyse spoken and written language. You also get the opportunity to develop a good understanding of the teaching and learning of English as a foreign language.

In your final year you take control! You will design and conduct your own research project (Dissertation) on a topic that excites you, and choose from a range of option modules (including Language and Gender, Language in the Media and Issues in Teaching English) that suit your interests and potential career goals.

Current optional modules include:

Describing English Language
Are the rules of English grammar fixed for all time or are they changing? Is it important to follow rules such as not splitting an infinitive? What is the difference between an adverb and an adverbial? In this module we will learn about the structure of the English language and explore answers to these questions. You will develop a sound grasp of a useful method for exploring English grammar, and learn the relevant terminology. By the end of the module, you will be able to apply this descriptive framework to any text in English and understand the effect of grammar choices on your style of writing.
OUR COURSES

BA LINGUISTICS WITH A MODERN LANGUAGE*
ARABIC | CHINESE | FRENCH | GERMAN | ITALIAN
JAPANESE | PORTUGUESE | RUSSIAN | SPANISH

Do you love languages? Do you like to communicate with people and ideas multilingually? Are you interested in the similarities and differences between English and other languages? Do you want to be an effective language teacher? Do you want to be better at learning languages besides English?

Studying Linguistics gives you a deeper understanding of our primary communication tool – language. You will learn about the mechanics of language and how languages work, discover the relationship between language and society, and develop analytical skills for exploring a range of communication problems. Studying Linguistics together with a Modern Language also gives you the chance to apply your Linguistics knowledge and skills to strengthen your fluency in your chosen language.

In your first year on the BA Linguistics with a Modern Language, you will be introduced to the way language works as a system for communicating. You will also study topics related to how language is used in society, particularly in the domains of media, politics and education.

In your second year, you will explore issues related to intercultural communication, and questions regarding how we acquire language. You may also choose optional modules that help you to develop the skills to conduct your own research into language and communication issues.

Current core modules include: Linguistics: Understanding Language
What is language? What is language made of? What do we do when we speak? What rules do we follow when we put sounds together to create words and when we combine words to create sentences? How many languages are spoken in the world today, and in which ways are they similar or different? These are some of the questions that this module will enable you to explore. In this module, you will use examples from different languages to help you develop practical skills needed to analyse real language data.

If you’re interested both in learning a language and learning about how they work, this course is for you. Being on this course completely changed the way I viewed how language is used and spoken in the world around me.

Alfie Widger
Linguistics with Portuguese

*See page 12 for full language requirements for each route
YOUR INTERCALATED YEAR

Study Abroad
All of our students have the opportunity to apply for an optional, third year – an intercalated year – abroad; this means you will complete your degree in four years instead of three. You can spend the year at one of our world class partner universities in Europe, Australia, Japan, China and Latin America, among many other destinations.

It’s even possible to experience semesters in two different universities and cultures during your year abroad. Most partner universities offer modules taught in English, so you can enter fully into the academic life of the overseas university even if you are not fluent in the local language. If you choose to study within Europe, the Erasmus+ scheme currently offers some students a generous, non-repayable grant to support the cost of overseas study.

Work Placements
It is also possible to undertake a course-related work placement (either abroad or in the UK) during your intercalated year to help you develop valuable communication skills and enhance your career profile.

What are the benefits of an international experience or work placement during your time at Applied Linguistics?
• Broaden your horizons, enrich your cultural understanding and enjoy a transformational experience.
• Study at some of the world’s most prestigious universities outside the UK.
• Work in new environments and volunteer with projects that make a real contribution to a global society.
• Significantly enhance your future employability.
• Enhance your foreign language skills and further develop your intercultural competence.
• Make new friends from all over the globe.

Warwick students have benefited hugely from engaging fully in the cultural and social life of their host country. Apart from their academic work, our students have contributed to environmental projects in the Philippines, helped refugees in Denmark, taught English in Shanghai and studied Flamenco in Seville!

Our returning students tell us that their Year Abroad is transformational, especially in developing their understanding of other cultures and themselves.

It has been an amazing experience. This is mainly down to the people that you meet and the different languages and cultures you are surrounded by. I really love Shanghai and would definitely think about coming back here to work. The whole experience has been eye-opening and challenging. My advice would be to take a year abroad.

Caitlin Wood
BA Language Culture and Communication
PERSONAL TUTORING AT APPLIED LINGUISTICS

We take the professional development and psychological well-being of our students very seriously, and our personal tutoring system is a core part of the department’s provision. All of our students are allocated a Personal Tutor who meets you regularly to support your learning experience, answer questions and offer useful suggestions on a range of topics from academic writing to career decisions. A Senior Personal Tutor oversees the system and offers additional support if there are more complicated issues to deal with. We believe the system works extremely well and we pride ourselves that our student feedback has some of the best satisfaction ratings in the university for personal tutoring.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

You will have the opportunity to tailor your assessment to questions you are interested in and work on projects as part of your assessments. Undergraduate Research is a core part of your learning experience and you will have opportunities to collaborate with your peers and postgraduate students as well as your lecturers.

You may choose to apply for Undergraduate Support Scheme (URSS) funding, which may enable you to conduct a major independent research project under direct guidance from Centre for Applied Linguistics academic staff.

YOUR CAREER

With our focus on interdisciplinary skills, your course in Warwick’s Centre for Applied Linguistics will open a range of career opportunities. Since language is crucial to every successful career, it’s hard to imagine a professional path that wouldn’t benefit from one of our courses, and you’ll leave with skills to help your professional life and career progression including:

• Expertise in linguistics, culture, communication, and English and other languages.
• The ability to apply your expertise to solve real world problems concerning language.
• A global mindset and heightened cultural awareness.
• The ability to think critically and innovatively around a range of language and communication issues.

CELTa (CERTIFICATE in ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING to SPEAKERS of OTHER LANGUAGES)

Independent of your course, you may apply to complete training in CELTA through the Department. This is a globally recognised English language teaching qualification that is highly respected by employers.

The Warwick CELTA course was fun, lively, challenging and very helpful. Everything was carefully organised to make the most of every minute of contact time. The tutors were brilliant, and very supportive. I’m now teaching adults in a local language school and volunteering with refugees - a dream come true.

Mary Houlgate
Before starting here, I felt I struggled academically with work, so having the presence of personal tutors and the constant offer of help reassured me that I wouldn’t struggle on my own. In fact, that support and help has changed my whole opinion of myself: I wasn’t academically weak, I just needed the right course and teaching to make me thrive - I went from having to repeat a year of A-levels to getting a first in my first year!

I have done work experience shadowing an Educational Psychologist and a Speech and Language Therapist as I was interested in a potential career that could help people with communication difficulties. I also volunteered for a charity organisation called Dyscover which helps people with aphasia - due to this, learning about aphasia this year in linguistics was really interesting and applicable!

Before I came to Warwick, I wanted to work in Speech and Language Therapy, but after getting so involved with the department as the President of GloCAL society, I realised I wanted to pursue a career where I could be constantly active and arrange events. I sought advice from staff and the careers advisor and I am now picking third year optional modules which focus on communication from a career point of view. I plan to choose “Professional Communication” and “Global PR” modules and seek more work experience to refine my options. The department has been extremely helpful.

Christina Milton
BA Language Culture and Communication
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

English Language and Linguistics  AAB, IB 36
Language, Culture and Communication  AAB, IB 36
Linguistics with Arabic*  AAB, IB 36
Linguistics with Chinese**  AAB, IB 36
Linguistics with French†  AAB, IB 36
Linguistics with German†  AAB, IB 36
Linguistics with Italian†  AAB, IB 36
Linguistics with Japanese**  AAB, IB 36
Linguistics with Portuguese*  AAB, IB 36
Linguistics with Russian*  AAB, IB 36
Linguistics with Spanish†  AAB, IB 36

* These courses are only suitable for beginners in the language
** These courses are only suitable for beginners, intermediate and post-A level language learners (not native speakers)
† An A Level in the language is not essential, although some evidence of language-learning ability is desirable

Applied Linguistics
S1.74 Social Sciences Building
The University of Warwick
Coventry
CV4 7AL

Course information in this brochure was accurate at the time of printing.

Our course, module content and schedule are continually reviewed and updated to reflect the latest research expertise at Warwick, so it is therefore very important that you check the website, warwick.ac.uk, for the latest information before you apply and when you accept an offer.

For full terms and conditions, please visit warwick.ac.uk/ugtermsandconditions